

8100 PROCEDURE 501

Prioritization of Emergency Radio Traffic

(No. 9 June 2012)

[\(See Policy 8152 – Radio Traffic Prioritization\)](#)

The standardization of radio terminology statewide is critical to effective communication and firefighter safety. This procedure addresses the prioritization of radio traffic and the terminology used to clear the radio for emergencies and new incident traffic.

Responsibilities and Action MAYDAY Field Personnel

1. Upon receipt of a “MAYDAY” declaration, alert the Command Center (CC) by stating “Emergency Traffic”.
 - a. If on an incident, the alert shall be made through the incident command structure.
2. Provide the following information to the CC:
 - a. Type of emergency
 - b. Location of emergency
 - c. Resource needs
 - d. Additional pertinent information

Any CC

The Command Center in receipt of a “MAYDAY” declaration will follow the procedures listed below in the **EMERGENCY TRAFFIC** section under **Any CC. EMERGENCY TRAFFIC Field Personnel**

1. “Emergency Traffic” is declared to announce an imminent or immediate life threatening situation to incident emergency personnel, Incident Commander (IC) and/or CC ([See Policy 1738.2 – Notification Procedures](#)).
 - a. Announcement of “Emergency Traffic” will alert field personnel to cease radio traffic and await further instruction.

Any CC

1. Upon receipt of the information, transmit the Life/Safety Alert Tone ([Procedure 8100p500 Life/Safety Alert](#)) and announce “Emergency Traffic Only” on the affected frequency. This announcement shall not interfere with the emergency traffic.
 - IC will be responsible for announcing “Emergency Traffic Only” on tactical frequencies.
3. Ensure radio traffic not directly related to the emergency has ceased.

4. Obtain the following information:
 - a. Type of emergency
 - b. Location of emergency
 - c. Resource needs
 - d. Additional pertinent information
5. If appropriate, initiate [Procedure 8100p300 –Report of New Incident](#) or [Procedure 8100p406 – Aircraft Accident or Incident](#).
6. Assign alternative frequency(s) as needed for the continuation of operations. Emergency traffic will remain on original frequency.
7. At the conclusion of the emergency, transmit a single alert tone and announce that the frequency is clear to resume routine radio traffic.

NEW INCIDENT

Field

Personnel

1. Field personnel will notify the Command Center via radio of an initial report of a new incident by stating New Incident and providing the incident type (i.e. “Grass Valley, Engine 2389, New Incident, Medical”).
2. Upon acknowledgement from the ECC, field personnel will provide the following information:
 - a. Incident type
 - b. Incident location
 - c. Resource needs
 - d. Safety hazards
 - e. Any additional information

ECC

1. Upon receipt of the radio report of a new incident, take action as appropriate. (See [Procedure 8100p300 – Report of New Incident](#))

INCIDENT TRAFFIC ONLY ECC

1. Utilize a single alert tone and announce “Incident Traffic Only” to restrict routine traffic (i.e. “All units, San Bernardino, restrict traffic to incident traffic only.”).

2. At the conclusion of the need, transmit a single alert tone and announce that the frequency is clear to resume routine radio traffic.

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